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COAL NONFATAL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY OUTBURST OF COAL ACCIDENT

L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 5, 1982

by

Eugene Lopez
Coal Mine Inspector

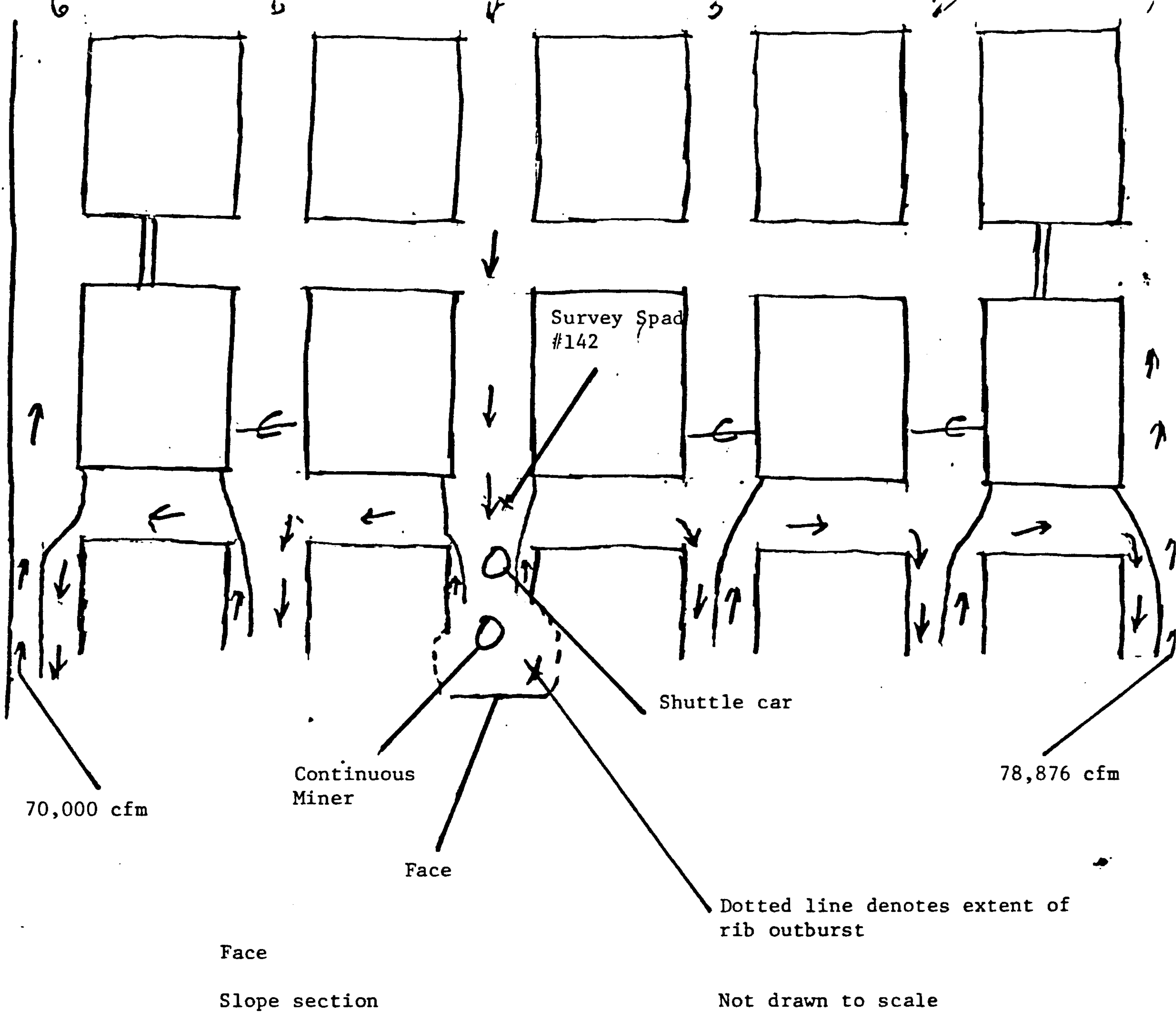
Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
Drawer J, 575 East First South, Price, Utah 84501
Jensen L. Bishop, Subdistrict Manager

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Abstract of Investigation

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration



Authority —

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

SECTION A — IDENTIFICATION DATA

Noninjury Outburst of
1. Title of investigation: Coal Accident
2. Date MESA investigation started: 04/05/82
3. Report release date: September 1, 1982
4. Mine: L. S. Wood
5. Mine ID number: 05-00300
6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
7. Town, County, State: Redstone, Pitkin Co, CO
8. Author(s): Eugene Lopez

SECTION D — ORIGINATING OFFICE

18 Mine Safety and Health Administration
Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 9
Address: Drawer J, Price, UT 84501

SECTION B — MINE INFORMATION

9. Daily production: 1,345 tons
10. Surface employment: 4
11. Underground employment: 114
12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin "B"
13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 inches

SECTION C — LAST QUARTERLY INJURY AND FREQUENCY RATE (BSA) FOR

14. Industry: 15.40
15. This operation: 13.02
05/09/79
16. Training program approved: 06/25/80 Mod.
17. Mine Profile Rating: _____

SECTION E — ABSTRACT

On Monday, April 5, 1982, at 1:40 p.m., an outburst of coal accident occurred in the face area of the No. 4 entry of the slope section. No personal injury or apparent damage to equipment was suffered. The accident occurred because of the tremendous pressure on the coal and as a result of up to 2,500 feet of overburden.

SECTION F — MINE ORGANIZATION

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	John A. Reeves, Sr.	P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
20. Superintendent:	Tom Scott	P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
21. Safety Director:	Donald Ford	P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
22. Principle officer—H & S:	Tom Scott	P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623
23. Labor Organization:	None	
24. Chairman—H & S Committee:	DNA	

Commentary

On Monday, April 5, 1982, the slope section crew under the supervision of Dennis Bouwens (mine foreman) entered the mine at 7:00 a.m. on the mantrip and arrived at the section at about 7:20 a.m. Prior to energizing electrical equipment, examinations for methane and other hazardous conditions were conducted in the active working places. Work of replacing a broken hydraulic suction hose on the continuous miner was begun at 8:00 a.m. and completed by 9:00 a.m. The continuous miner was then moved into No. 6 entry where mining began, and completed the portion of the mining cycle without incident by 11:45 a.m. Then the continuous miner was trammed into No. 4 entry that had been volley fired on 04/02/82, in accordance with the operator's mining plan to relieve excessive stresses in the coal and to trigger incipient outbursts prior to mining. Mining started at 12:00 p.m. The face was penetrated about 10 feet. At this point, the portion of the mining cycle was completed. The miner operator then began to tram the continuous miner out of the face. The machine had traveled about 8 feet when small bounces started to occur. The mining crew, having experienced such conditions on previous occasions, knew that an outburst was imminent and immediately deenergized all electrical equipment at the section power center and retreated to a safe area. At 1:40 p.m. the anticipated outburst occurred displacing coal from the face and the left rib, covering the continuous miner past the operator's compartment except for about 8 feet of the boom conveyor. The writer was at another Mid-Continent Resources, Inc., mine when notified of the accident and immediately went to the site and started the investigation.

Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the outburst of coal:

1. The face of the entry was 108 feet inby the last open cross cut at survey station 142.
2. Ventilation was affected.
3. The outburst originated in the face of the entry.
4. The outburst extended 18 feet inby the face and 10 feet into the left rib for a distance of 27 feet long.
5. There was coal displaced from the face and rib for a distance of 75 feet outby.
6. The continuous miner was being operated by remote control.
7. No personal injury was suffered.

The continuous mining machine was covered with coal except for about 8 feet of the boom conveyor.


Findings of Fact

The investigation did not reveal any violations of Title 30 CFR that contributed to the occurrence of the accident.

Conclusion

Probable cause of the outburst of coal was the build-up of pressures on the coal bed from at least 2,500 feet of overburden.

Respectfully submitted,


Eugene Lopez
Coal Mine Inspector

Approved by:


Jensen L. Bishop
Subdistrict Manager

APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and those persons present during the investigation were:

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

Tom Scott	Superintendent
Richard Gilmore	Mine Foreman
Dennis Bouwens	Mine Foreman

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Eugene Lopez	Coal Mine Inspector
Louis Villegos	Coal Mine Inspector